



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>



# WEATHER & CROPS

**Week Ending: September 30, 2012**

**Number: 30**

**Released: October 1, 2012**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

It was a busy week for producers throughout Virginia, as clear weather with minimal rain showers allowed field work to progress rapidly this week. The temperatures have also been favorable, with cool nights and warm days providing nearly ideal harvest conditions. Days suitable for field work were 6.0. With wonderful weather abound, corn and tobacco harvest all advanced steadily, although an early frost damaged some burley tobacco in the Southwestern area of the state. Producers also made headway on the planting of their cover crops and field preparations for small grains, including applications of lime and fertilizer. In a few areas, soybean leaf drop is complete and early harvest has begun. Vegetable harvest is also coming to an end.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 30, 2012	2	23	74	1
September 23, 2012	2	19	74	5
September 16, 2012	4	28	64	4
September 9, 2012	2	18	73	7
September 2, 2012	2	23	66	9

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 30, 2012	3	27	69	1
September 23, 2012	4	23	70	3
September 16, 2012	6	32	60	2
September 9, 2012	4	26	63	7
September 2, 2012	5	28	61	6

### IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3

**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Service**



**Virginia Tech**

**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

**Virginia State University**



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	2	8	32	53	5
Livestock	0	4	22	55	19
Hay, Other	2	18	27	46	7
Hay, Alfalfa	2	8	19	53	18
Soybeans	0	3	30	57	10
Peanuts	0	0	5	91	4
Cotton	0	0	3	96	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	97	95	93	99
Corn Mature	94	85	86	92
Corn Harvested	79	65	62	56
Corn Silage Harvested	90	84	88	91
Soybeans Setting Pods	100	99	100	100
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	33	20	41	49
Soybeans Harvested	2	0	2	3
Winter Wheat Seeded	9	5	27	13
Barley Seeded	32	15	37	29
Tobacco, Flue Harvested	82	67	75	74
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	88	83	88	86
Tobacco, Dark Fire Harvested	100	100	98	99
Peanuts Dug	20	8	7	14
Peanuts Combined	2	0	3	7
Cotton Bolls Opening	85	75	84	84
Apples, Fall Harvested	85	80	47	57
Apples, Winter Harvested	54	44	0	27
Oats for Grain Harvested	100	95	NA	NA

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep. 29	Mar. 1 to Sep. 29 normal	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	76	49	85	40	62	-2	3869	3542	0.01	2.35	-1.32	24.89	-8.29
Norfolk	79	59	85	51	69	0	4488	3928	0.07	1.26	-2.55	33.94	-2.16
Richmond	78	55	85	49	66	0	4351	3830	0.14	4.08	0.27	29.45	-4.40
Roanoke	75	52	85	41	64	0	4074	NA	0.01	3.60	-0.07	28.42	-4.62
Wash/Dulles	75	53	84	45	64	0	3964	NA	0.64	2.70	-0.94	22.75	-9.29

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### CENTRAL

#### **AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

The county received good rains late August and early September which made improvements to the pasture, hay and soybeans. Now it has been a couple of weeks since a rain and the ground is getting dry, but not critical. The past two weeks has been good weather for anyone fortunate enough to have corn to harvest. The temperatures have been favorable, cool nights and warm days.

#### **CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

The rains that Chesterfield had late August, early September improved the pasture, hay and soybeans. It has been dry in the past two weeks, but not critical to the crops. The temperatures have been mild, low night temps and warm days. The county could use a few showers any time.

#### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

It was a beautiful early fall weekend. Scattered showers across the county with central and eastern end getting significant rain and the western end of the county getting dry again. Corn harvest is pretty well done. Early beans are beginning to be harvested with leaf drop complete. Late beans are still going strong.... small grain and cover crop seeding is getting under way.

### EASTERN

#### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Farmers continued field preparation and applications of lime and fertilizer for small grain planting during the week. A few farmers also started planting wheat and barley. Some hay was also made, and producers continued planting cover crops.

#### **MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Corn harvest is winding down. Soybean leaves are yellowing fast. Cover crop planting is underway as well as major field prep for small grain planting. Folks are getting deliveries on small grain seed. Soybean harvest is still a couple of weeks away. Rain forecasted for this weekend may speed that up. Vegetable harvest is coming to an end. Fall crops are being planted. Soil moisture levels are dropping. Barley planting may begin next week.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### **SMYTH (Andy Overbay)**

An early frost has adversely affected burley tobacco that was cut but still in the field. Limited sun and afternoon showers made recovery of that portion of the crop difficult. Standing corn has also been affected as has some grass in pastures.